



CONSENT TO COUNSEL AGREEMENT

Our Goal: Our goal in providing biblical counseling is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ and allow you to enjoy fully His love for you and His plans for your life. We believe that the bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life. Therefore, our counseling is based on scriptural principles. (2 Peter 1:2-4)

Not Professional Advice: Christian Bible Fellowship pastoral and lay counselors are not professionals in psychological counseling, psychiatric therapy, or marriage and family counseling or therapy, and are not licensed by the State of North Carolina as counselors, social workers, or therapists. Our pastoral and lay counselors will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in light of relevant scriptural principles.

Confidentiality: Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. There are four situations, however, when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: when a counselor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another pastor/counselor in this ministry; when a counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk to his or her pastor; when a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20); or where disclosure is required by law, i.e., where there is a threat of serious harm to self or others, as in the case of child/elder/disabled abuse or neglect, suicide, threatened violence, or homicide. In such instances, your communications may be disclosed to appropriate state law enforcement authorities and/or the ministry leadership. Furthermore, it may be necessary breach confidentiality if the counselor is ordered by the court to testify in a trial. Please be assured that our counselors prefer not to disclose personal information to others, and they will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve a problem as privately as possible.

Counselor Contact: Due to scheduled appointments if you have an emergency, please call the office secretary. If she cannot help you, the counselor will return your call as soon as possible. Also, due to increased need for our services, we ask that you cancel your appointment at least two days in advance in order that we can offer the time to someone on the waiting list. Three cancellations without prior notice will forfeit future sessions. If you arrive late for any session by fifteen minutes or more, we reserve the right to cancel your appointment for that day.

AGREEMENT

By signing this document, I am, of my own free will, knowingly authorizing the biblical counselors of Christian Bible Fellowship to render Biblical counseling and/or referral services to me. Likewise, I have been informed of the nature and purposes of the Bible-based counseling ministry's services and that my consent may be revoked orally or in writing prior to, and/or during the counseling session. Furthermore, I understand that the pastoral counselor to which I am assigned is not licensed by the State of North Carolina as a professional counselor, social worker, or therapist.

I have read and fully understand my rights as a client and that my counselor will disclose my communications to law enforcement officials as required by law. I further understand and hereby give my permission for my counselor to disclose his/her written and taped records of my counseling sessions with the ministry leadership or a consultant for the purpose of receiving supervision regarding my care and his/her training.

I agree to the set number of biblical counseling sessions of 13 or fewer, unless the counselor deems additional sessions necessary for my spiritual growth.

I agree to notify the church office if I am unable to keep an appointment.

I agree never to make demands, threaten to sue, or actually litigate any matter whatsoever relating to or resulting from this Agreement. I understand that making demands, threatening to sue or actually litigating a matter against Christian Bible Fellowship clearly violates Biblical teaching and practice and shall constitute sufficient grounds for immediate termination of counseling services. I understand that retaining or instructing an attorney to contact the ministry with regard to a potential claim or dispute will be interpreted as a threat to sue. Accordingly, the parties agree to resolve all potential claims, disputes or causes of action through binding arbitration using the procedures outlined in the church's officially adopted Christian arbitration procedures.

No guarantee or assurance of any kind has been made to me with respect to any of the results that may be obtained from these services.

Having clarified the principles and policies of our ministry, we welcome the opportunity to minister to you in the name of Christ and to be used by Him as He helps you to grow in spiritual maturity and prepares you for usefulness in His body. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please talk with the office secretary or one of the church Elders. If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.

Counselee: _____ **Date:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____